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# CIA Defended By Sen. Dodd, Citing Danger

Intelligence Agency  
Can't Answer Critics,  
Ho Points Out

Washington, Feb. 18—(AP)—Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn) wants an end to what he calls "the virtual epidemic of attacks on the Central Intelligence Agency."

In a Senate speech, Dodd said the attacks are unfair and unwarranted.

"It is a highly dangerous pastime because the CIA is one of the essential elements of our security," he said.

Dodd, a onetime FBI agent and government attorney, said he is astonished at recent attacks on the CIA by some members of Congress "who are staunch anti-Communists."

He said much criticism also has come from pacifists "who would let the Communists take over the world rather than fight against them" and "muddle-headed moralists . . . who for some strange reason consider it wrong" for this country to move against Communist subversion.

'National Pastime'

Dodd, a member of the Senate's internal security subcommittee, declared that "bait-the-CIA almost seems to have achieved the stature of a popular national pastime."

He added:

"There is something unbecoming about the pastime, because the CIA cannot defend itself. Attacking the CIA, indeed, is something like beating a man who has his arms tied behind his back.

"For reasons of national security, the agency cannot confirm or deny published reports, true or false, favorable or unfavorable. It cannot alibi. It cannot explain. It cannot answer even the most outrageously inaccurate charges."

Dodd said the Soviet secret police has set up a special bureau "whose task is to discredit the CIA" and it spreads all attacks on the CIA through its worldwide propaganda media.

Charges Noted

Dodd then denied what he described as charges that the CIA:

—Is "running wild" without supervision of either the President or Congress.

—Is deciding and determining foreign policies instead of providing intelligence and carrying out orders of top officials.

—Was chiefly responsible for the blunders in the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

—Worked at cross purposes with the State Department in the Viet Nam struggle against Communists.